GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2638
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2008
IMPORT OF FOOD ITEMS
Jogi Shri Ajit

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain infested food items have been imported without any checks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government to ensure that imported items are checked properly; and

(d) the success achieved by the Government as a result thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d) : The import of any food article is governed under Section 5 and 6 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954. Section 6(2) of the Act provides that such clearance of any imported food articles is the responsibility of the Customs Collectors or their authorized officers. For clearance of consignments of imported foods, the Central Board of Excise and Customs, Department of Revenue, has framed the procedure for 100% testing before clearance. In case where the samples are found to be conforming to the standards for first five consecutive consignments of each food items imported by individual importers, there is a provision for clearance of consignment of food articles on the basis of 5 to 20% random testing. Information relating to actual import of infested food items, if any, is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.